

Application No. 10/023,255
Docket No. 2001U012.US
Reply to Office Action Dated June 22, 2004

Remarks

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 37 are also amended to modify the definition of "R" to include "C₂ to C₃₀". This is derived from the specification as filed at, for example, page 7 paragraph [0018]. This amendment is supported in the specification as filed, and allowed as per *In re Johnson and Farnham*, 558 F.2d 1008, 194 USPQ 187 (CCPA 1977).

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-17 and 37-39 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated over US 6,399,724 ("Mitsui"), in particular, over the structures therein at cols. 15-24, 25, 40, 46, 104, 121, 137, 138, 159 and 196. The Applicant traverses this rejection, as Applicant's claimed invention is not disclosed in *Mitsui*.

In particular, *Mitsui* does not disclose the claimed invention. Applicant claims structures wherein "R is a C₂ to C₃₀ straight chain alkyl group or a C₂ to C₃₀ branched chain alkyl group", that group bound directly to an imine (=N—R) or phosphine (=P—R). The "R" group is clearly defined in the claim and the specification, the description stating at page 7, paragraph [0018] that "[I]f the non-bulky group is branched, the branch point must be at least 3 atoms removed from X". *Mitsui* does not disclose such a structure.

The structures at cols. 15-24 of *Mitsui* disclose a group bound to an imine that would not fall in to the definition of Applicant's "R" group—in this case *Mitsui* discloses a phenyl or substituted phenyl group in that position.

As in cols. 15-24 of *Mitsui*, the same can be said of the structures in cols. 35, 40, 46, 104 (also, a "tBu" group), 137 (methyl group within one atom removed from X, and other groups not a "straight chain alkyl group"), 138 (bridging groups not a "straight

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chain alkyl group"), 159 (bulky ring systems, t-butyl groups, silyl groups, etc), and 196 (bulky ring systems, t-butyl groups, silyl groups, etc).

At col. 121, there is disclosed one example of a structure wherein a methyl group bound to the imine of the structure. The present claims as amended do not include methyl, or "C₁" groups in this position ("C₂ to C₃₀").

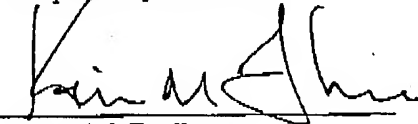
Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the case is in condition for allowance. The Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any other issues outstanding which have not been presented to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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